

# TDMHDD Update

## Through the Years

### A 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) celebrated 50 years of service to Tennessee at an event and reception in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the State Capitol Wednesday, May 26. Governor Phil Bredesen, Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, and the family of former Governor Frank G. Clement, the architect of creating the department, anchored a program focused on the past, present and future.

"I am very pleased to recognize the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities for its leadership in the development of mental health services over these many years," said Governor Bredesen.

"Governor Clement was a visionary, who recognized an important need and acted on it. His groundwork led to great success in a much better quality of life for the citizens of our state who experience or are affected by mental illnesses. We remain committed to continuing the history of cutting edge accomplishments of the past 50 years."

The TDMHDD has undergone immense growth and change in planning for and promoting the availability of services and supports. Commissioner Betts is the 15th administrator at the helm of TDMHDD. There is focus on the present, but always a keen eye to the future.

"The inpatient population at our five Regional Mental Health Institutes has been reduced as we move to community care," Betts said. "We have created permanent, safe, affordable housing options in local communities, a statewide suicide prevention program is in effect and we have forged strong and important alliances with the family and consumer movement."

However, there are many challenges facing us. The stigma surrounding mental illness is the main reason people refuse to seek help early. We are working closely with the Governor on TennCare transformation. More attention must be devoted to the needs of children and the growing needs of older Tennesseans. There's mental health and substance abuse and the mental health workforce as it relates to minorities. There is much work to do and we will get it done."

**Photo: Anthony Fox, Executive Director, Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association, Frank G. Clement, Jr., Judge, Court of Appeals, Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, sister of former Governor Frank G. Clement pose with Commissioner Betts and Governor Phil Bredesen at the 50th Anniversary celebration.**



### Life Beyond Depression: Delta Burke Speaks Out



Actress Delta Burke shared her story of overcoming Depression to over 300 individuals at a free seminar for GOAL! (Go On And Live!) held at Nashville's Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel on July 9.

GOAL! is a national campaign designed to educate people about the emotional and physical symptoms of depression and anxiety disorders.

For more information on GOAL!, go to: [www.goonandlive.com/](http://www.goonandlive.com/)



## 2004 THDA HOME Grants to Benefit Tennesseans with Mental Illness and Co-occurring Disorders

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA), through its federally funded HOME grant program, has awarded \$1,097,066 for special needs housing projects, which will benefit persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. HOME funds are administered annually to cities, counties and not-for-profit organizations through a competitive application process.

"This is a wonderful opportunity provided by the THDA," said Marie Williams, Director of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) Office of Housing Planning and Development. "These projects will enhance the lives of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders by giving them permanent, safe, affordable, quality housing options. They will now have the least restrictive residential setting that is

consistent with their needs and choice. THDA's funding sources are giving a great amount of hope and healing to the people who will reside in these homes."

**"THDA's funding sources are giving a great amount of hope and healing to the people who will reside in these homes."**

- Marie Williams  
TDMHDD Director of the  
Office of Housing Planning  
and Development

The \$1,097,066 will provide 27 housing units in four counties across the state. Following is a breakdown of the counties and organizations, which are involved in the projects.

- Hawkins County (Bulls Gap) \$460,732 for eight units
- McMinn County (Morning Star Ministries) \$280,000 for eight units
- Crockett and Tipton Counties (Professional Counseling Services) \$245,042 for four units, (Jackson Center for Independent Living) \$111,292 for seven units.

## Ingram Honors Rochelle Center Workers

Recently, Ingram Book Group's Logistics Operations and Engineering Department celebrated the first anniversary of partnership with Rochelle Center workers in their shipping box project.

The project, in which Rochelle Center workers help assemble the boxes Ingram uses for shipping, involves a team of 10 people producing over 1200 cartons throughout a daily five-hour shift.

"They make a great impression on all of us at the Ingram Book Company and

make us smile," stated Senior Industrial Engineer Rodney Davidson.

For 30 years, the Rochelle Center has served persons with developmental disabilities and their families, creating opportunities to develop new skills, enhance independence and increase acceptance as valued members of the community.

For more information on the center and its programs, visit the organization's web site at: [www.rochellecenter.org](http://www.rochellecenter.org).

## National Park Service to Receive 220 Acres at Moccasin Bend

Governor Phil Bredesen signed a letter of intent, on April 26, to convey approximately 220 acres of state land on the Moccasin Bend peninsula to the National Park Service to create the Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District, a new park that will be a unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Currently, the property is part of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' (TDMHDD) Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute (MBMHI). Nearby property jointly owned by the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County also will be transferred to the Park Service in the near future.

"The State of Tennessee is very pleased to partner with the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County and the National Park Service on this important project," Bredesen said.



Aerial map of Moccasin Bend. The TDMHDD will keep the land within the red boundary line.



## International Mental Health Leaders Share Issues, Ideas and Challenges



*Dr. David Chaplow, Director of Mental Health for New Zealand (left) and Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts met briefly with Governor Phil Bredesen during Chaplow's daylong visit with the TDMHDD. His visit coincided with a visit to Centerstone as part of the International Institute for Mental Health Leadership's second annual international exchange of community mental health CEOs.*

Public acknowledgement and understanding of mental illness is often clouded by the stigma that surrounds it. But, the numbers don't lie. Each year, an estimated 56 million Americans - one in five people - experience diagnosable mental disorders. And on a global scale, mental illnesses account for four of the ten leading causes of disability.

Along with US state agencies and advocacy groups, The International Institute for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) has begun a global education armed with a vision that mental health consumers, throughout the world, are able to access providers with the knowledge and competence most likely to support their recovery.

Recently, the United States played host to the IIMHL's second annual international exchange of community mental health CEOs.

Centerstone, a member of MHCA (Mental Health Corporations of America) was chosen by IIMHL to be a host agency (agencies are

paired based on size and interests, issues and challenges. The centers in NZ, UK and Canada are similar in size to Centerstone and were subsequently paired up). From this pairing, Centerstone and the visiting international centers identified a series of service issues such as collective research, collective training, technology interface, evidence based practices and several others to work on together in the future.

Participating in the exchange were: Dr. David Chaplow (New Zealand's Minister of Mental Health), Ian McKenzie (CEO from South Auckland, NZ), Dr. Margaret Aimer (Medical Director from South Auckland, NZ), Sue Turner (CEO of Birmingham, UK) and Steve Lurie (Executive Director of Ontario's mental health center).

As a highlight of the May visit to Tennessee, Dr. Chaplow had the opportunity to spend a day with the TDMHDD and meet with various staff members and Governor Bredesen.

## Bob, A CHI Success Story

by Rozann Downey

Bob, 44, moved into the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI)/Behavioral Health Initiatives, Inc. (BHI) Puryear permanent housing residence in August of 2001. Bob has been diagnosed with Paranoid Schizophrenia.

According to records, Bob was a frequent patient at Western Mental Health Institute (WMHI). In 1998, Bob was hospitalized seven times. The shortest of these stays was three weeks and the longest was three and a half months.

His case manager reported, Bob had never been able to consistently stay on his medication.

"I would take it for a few weeks and when things got to going well, I didn't think I needed it," Bob stated.

The usual scenario would be Bob becoming unstable and, subsequently, he would panhandle in the community telling them he needed money for bizarre things such as a "brain transplant". Eventually, the cops would be called and Bob would find himself on his way to WMHI. This situation would occur about every two to three months. Bob said it was "a never ending cycle". He was hospitalized three times from 1999-2001, but only for a couple of weeks each time.

Bob was one of the first residents of the CHI/BHI Puryear Group Home. He has been with BHI for over a year, and we are proud to say that, since moving into our home, he has not been hospitalized, and he has not received any type of crisis services.

Bob no longer feels the need to panhandle. He has made tremendous progress. Another goal that Bob has been working on is building a relationship with his siblings. BHI is happy to report that last month Bob's sister came up from Georgia to visit him.

When asked what he likes best about living in a home in the community, Bob smiles and replies "everything."

## HAPPENINGS

### Hall Receives Summit Award



Patricia Hall, Vice President of Compliance/Community Relations for the Helen Ross McNabb Center, received the Summit Award-Lifetime

Achievement on June 3 in Nashville.

Awarded by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services of the Tennessee Department of Health, Hall was recognized for her contributions in the field of addictions services. Prior to joining the McNabb Center, Hall was executive director of the Detoxification Rehabilitation Institute for over 20 years.

### Williams to Receive 2004 NAMI Francoeur Award

Marie Williams has been selected by the NAMI Board of Directors to receive the 2004 Phillip and Sarah Francoeur Award.

Given to individuals who've shown exemplary work in providing housing to persons with mental illness, the award will be presented to Williams at NAMI's 25th Anniversary Convention in Washington, D.C. this September.

### 2004 Hope Award Winners

Congratulations are in order to these devoted, self-sacrificing mental health professionals. Many individuals have benefited by your help and compassion.

Consumer of the Year  
Jessee Fortner

Advocate of the Year  
Steve Sheehan

Educator of the Year  
Dr. John N. Page

Criminal Justice Advocate  
Laura Quinn-Marquardt (tie)

Criminal Justice Advocate  
Mary Ann Hea (tie)

MH Program of the Year  
Dr. Peter R. Martin.

Psychiatrist of the Year  
Dr. Alan Lynch

Professional of the Year  
David Grimes

President's Award  
Marie Williams

Consumer/Professional  
of the Year  
Joe Swinford

Community Partner of the Year  
Penny Campbell

Advocate in Justice & Legal Matters  
Judge Seth Norman

Broadcast Journalist of the Year  
Sharon Kay

Print Media Journalist of the Year  
Sameh (Sam) Fahmy

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